

TOWN OF MERRILLVILLE
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
March 28, 2017

CALL TO ORDER: 6:30 p.m.

INVOCATION: Captain Jennifer Clanton – Salvation Army

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL: Mrs. Barron was absent. All other members were present.

PETITIONS, COMMUNICATIONS, ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS AND REMONSTRATIONS:

President Hardaway read a letter from Ross Township Trustee on behalf of S.S.Constantine and Helen Ladies Philoptochos Society. The Ladies Society will sponsor their 10th annual Spaghetti Benefit Dinner for the Ross Township Food Pantry. Ross Township Food Pantry has received in excess of \$89,000 over the past 9 years from this fundraiser. The event will take place at the church on Thursday, May 4, 2017 from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. The letter requested to grant permission for use of available advertising space provided through Lamar signs for the Town of Merrillville. Mr. Pettit will handle this request.

CDBG Public Hearing

President Hardaway read the opening remarks for the Community Development Block Grant program (CDBG) Public Hearing. President Hardaway opened the floor up for any public comment. There was no public comment.

- 1) Motion to Adopt Citizen Participation Plan.

Ms. LaMarca made a motion to approve and was seconded by Mr. Pettit. There was no discussion. The motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

- 2) Motion to Adopt Affirmative Action Program Implementing Section 3 of the Housing & Urban Development Act of 1968.

Ms. LaMarca made a motion to approve and was seconded by Mr. Pettit. There was no discussion. The motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

- 3) Motion to Adopt Section 3 Understanding.

Ms. LaMarca made a motion to approve and was seconded by Mr. Pettit. There was no discussion. The motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

President Hardaway announced the conclusion of the CDBG Public Hearing.

Res. 17-09: A Resolution authorizing and directing the Town Council President of the Town of Merrillville to submit a project proposal for Community Development Block Grant Funds for federal fiscal years 2017 & 2018. Mr. Pettit made a motion to approve the resolution and was seconded by Ms. LaMarca. Comment was made that the projects have not been selected yet, there was no further discussion. The motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

Mr. Pettit made a motion to amend the agenda to add a Public Hearing for Res. 17-10. Mrs. Uzelac seconded the motion. There was no discussion. The motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Approval of the Accounts Payable Register Voucher dated March 28, 2017. Approval of Town Council Meeting Minutes of March 14, 2017. Mrs. Uzelac made a motion to approve and was seconded by Mr. Minchuk. There was no discussion. The motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

STANDING COMMITTEES:

BUDGET & FINANCE:

Mr. Pettit had no report.

PUBLIC WORKS:

Mr. Minchuk provided the dates and locations that Public Works will be out for leaf and branch pick up. Mr. Minchuk mentioned as a reminder, to be aware of what can be placed in recycling bins and that Waste Management is starting to tag for improper materials. President Hardaway commented that there is information related to recyclables available in the current Talk of the Town newsletter.

Mr. Pettit spoke about multiple ongoing issues that need to be taken care of by INDOT (Indiana Department of Transportation). Discussion followed regarding these matters.

COUNCIL AFFAIRS:

Mrs. Uzelac personally thanked Chief Petruch for assigning additional patrols in an effort to resolve a curfew matter. She also commented on an issue in where someone was dumping cement.

PERSONNEL POLICY & EMPLOYEE BENEFITS:

Mrs. Barron was absent, no report.

PUBLIC SAFETY:

Mrs. Uzelac had no report.

PARKS & RECREATION:

Ms. LaMarca referred to Jan Orlich for a report. Ms. Orlich spoke about damage at some of the park locations caused by NIPSCO trucks accessing property without permission. Claim tickets have been filed with NIPSCO and they have assured the Parks Department that repairs would be made in the spring. Ms. Orlich said the 2017 Spring/Summer Parks brochure is complete and will be going to the printer. The brochure will also be available to view on the Town website.

ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS:

Mrs. Barron was absent. Mr. Lake said the Rain Barrel Program has started once again. Information about the program has been advertised in the newspapers, brochures distributed to Town departments, as well as published on the Town website.

ELECTIONS & PUBLIC RELATIONS:

Ms. LaMarca had no report.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT:

Mr. Pettit briefly commented on the upcoming Public Hearing related to the tax abatement.

UTILITY LIAISON:

Mr. Spann spoke about damage to the wall at Bel Oaks subdivision. Mr. Spann provided detailed statistics related to various Fire Department calls.

ABANDONED PROPERTIES:

There was discussion related to the tax sale lots of Old Mill property. President Hardaway spoke about a Blighted Properties meeting which the sale of Broadway Plaza was discussed. Mr. Pettit and the Council discussed matters related to the closing of Strack & Van Til.

GENERAL ORDERS:

FIRST READING ORDINANCES:

Ord. 17-04: An Ordinance of the Town of Merrillville, Lake County, Indiana, appropriating additional monies within the Broadway TIF/ Contractual Fund for the year 2017 not included in the current budget. Mrs. Uzelac made a motion to approve the ordinance and was seconded by Ms. LaMarca. There was no discussion. The motion carried by a 6-0 roll call vote.

SECOND READING ORDINANCES:

Ord. 17-02: An Ordinance of the Town of Merrillville Indiana, providing that the Zoning Ordinance Town of Merrillville, Lake County, Indiana be amended by changing the established C-3, Highway Commercial Zoning District to a Planned Unit Development Classification. Mr. Minchuk made a motion to approve the ordinance and was seconded by Mr. Pettit. Mr. Bushemi clarified as to proper version of the ordinance in which the Council would be taking action on as well as the changes that were incorporated. There was no public comment or further discussion. The motion carried by a 6-0 roll call vote.

Ord. 17-03: An Ordinance of the Town of Merrillville, Lake County, Indiana, appropriating additional monies within the various Stormwater Funds for the year 2017 not included in the current budget. Mrs. Uzelac made a motion to approve the ordinance and was seconded by Mr. Spann. There was no discussion or public comment. The motion carried by a 6-0 roll call vote.

RESOLUTIONS:

President Hardaway opened up a Public Hearing for Resolution 17-10. Mr. Bushemi stated this is a Public Hearing regarding Resolution 17-10 Confirmatory Resolution designating an Economic Revitalization area. There was no public comment. Mr. Pettit inquired as to if the resolution grants the tax abatement. Mr. Bushemi discussed the details involved for the process.

Ms. LaMarca made a motion to close the Public Hearing and was seconded by Mr. Pettit. There was no discussion. The motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

Res. 17-10: A Confirmatory Resolution of the Town Council of the Town of Merrillville, Indiana, designating an Economic Revitalization area. Mr. Pettit made a motion to approve the resolution and was seconded by Mrs. Uzelac. There was no discussion. The motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

BZA ACTIONS:

None

OLD BUSINESS:

None

NEW BUSINESS:

None

PUBLIC COMMENT:

All public comment is recorded on an audio file and kept on file in the Clerk-Treasurer's Office at Town Hall.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Board of Zoning Appeals meeting, March 29, 2017 at 6:30 p.m.
Stormwater Management Board meeting, April 4, 2017 at 4:30 p.m.
Economic Development Committee meeting, April 4, 2017 at 6:00 p.m.
Plan Commission workshop meeting, April 4, 2017 at 6:30 p.m.
Police Commission meeting, April 7, 2017 at 8:00 a.m.
Town Council meeting, April 11, 2017 at 6:30 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT: Mr. Pettit made a motion to adjourn was seconded by Mrs. Uzelac.

Richard Hardaway, President

Eugene Guernsey, Clerk-Treasurer